



## The Pensioner: In the Moment

Welcome to the digital MPERS newsletter! *The Pensioner: In the Moment* contains news, updates, and important information for retirees of the Missouri Department of Transportation, the Missouri State Highway Patrol, and MPERS.

### *The Pensioner: In the Moment* Turns One!



One year ago, MPERS decided to take a different approach to inform our members of upcoming events, notable achievements, informational articles, investment updates, benefit information, and much more. How could we accomplish this and make it easy for our members to receive this information quickly and without taking too much of their time?

The digital version of *The Pensioner: Looking Forward* was born!

We hope that you have enjoyed receiving this monthly newsletter and look forward to many editions to come!

In honor of the one-year anniversary, we would like to take a moment to thank you for your readership as well as request that you take the short poll below.

Do you find the content of *The Pensioner: In the Moment* relevant to retirees?

Yes

Select

No

Select

Is there a topic you would like to see covered in *The Pensioner: Looking Forward*? Send a quick email to [Julie.West@mpers.org](mailto:Julie.West@mpers.org) and share your ideas!

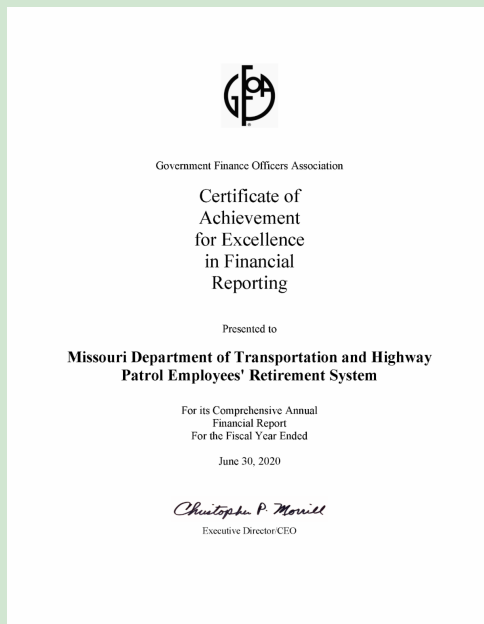
## 2021 Financial Status Update

How did the System fare during the 2021 fiscal year? Watch the 2021 Financial Status Update to find out!



## MPERS Receives Two Awards!

### Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting



The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to MPERS for its [comprehensive annual financial report for the 2020 fiscal year](#).

This Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment for MPERS' management and staff.

### Public Pension Standards Award for Funding and Administration

MPERS received the Public Pension Coordinating Council's Public Pension Standards Award each year since 2004. The award is given in recognition of meeting professional plan design and administration standards.

The Public Pension Coordinating Council is a confederation of the National Association of State Retirement Administrators (NASRA), the National Conference on Public Employee Retirement Systems (NCPERS), and the National Council on Teacher Retirement (NCTR).



Public Pension Coordinating Council

**Public Pension Standards Award  
For Funding and Administration  
2021**

Presented to

**MoDOT & Patrol Employees' Retirement System**

In recognition of meeting professional standards for  
plan funding and administration as  
set forth in the Public Pension Standards.

Presented by the Public Pension Coordinating Council, a confederation of

National Association of State Retirement Administrators (NASRA)  
National Conference on Public Employee Retirement Systems (NCPERS)  
National Council on Teacher Retirement (NCTER)

*Alan H. Winkler*  
Alan H. Winkler  
Program Administrator

## Closed Plan Benefit Recipients Receive October Cost-of-Living Adjustment



Closed Plan benefit recipients receive their COLA increases in October each year (if benefits were received the preceding month). The COLA rate for Closed Plan benefit recipients depends on your date of employment with the state or your work-related date of disability.

Year 2000 Plan benefit recipients receive COLA increases on the anniversary date of their retirement or BackDROP date, whichever applies.

The annual COLA rate will be equal to 80% of the increase in the CPI-U, with an annual maximum of five percent.

Members of the 2011 Tier who retire directly from active service receive COLA increases on the anniversary date of their retirement. The same is true for the survivor COLAs.

Members of the 2011 Tier who retire from a vested member status will receive their first COLA increase on the second-anniversary date of their retirement. The same is true for the survivor COLAs.

The annual COLA rate will be equal to 80% of the increase in the CPI-U, with an annual maximum of five percent.

Annual benefit statements are distributed based on your communication preferences.

For those with electronic communication preferences, you can find your statement in your *myMPERS* account. For those with mail preference, it has been mailed to the address we have on file.

On page two of your benefit statement, you can find your applicable COLA rate as well as the COLA amount.

If you want to know more about COLAs, please visit the [Cost-of-Living Adjustments page on our website](#).

If you have questions about your COLA, please send a message to [mpers@mpers.org](mailto:mpers@mpers.org) or contact a benefit specialist at 800-270-1271.

2021 Personal Benefit Statement	
<b>Monthly Benefit Payment and Deductions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The following is an itemized summary of your monthly benefit payment as of <b>October 2021</b>.</li> <li>The gross benefit amount below includes your COLA for this year.</li> </ul>	
<b>Gross Benefit (before deductions)</b> Monthly Base Benefit \$4,305.37 <b>Gross Benefit \$4,305.37</b>	
<b>Deductions</b> Federal Income Tax (\$466.44) Missouri State Income Tax (\$10.00) Medical (\$365.00) Optional Life (\$111.75) <b>Net Benefit (after deductions) \$3,352.18</b>	
<b>Benefit Payment Option</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Your benefit payment option determines if a survivor benefit will be payable to anyone after your death.</li> <li>Under this option, your eligible spouse will receive 100% of your base benefit each month for life.</li> </ul>	
Option Elected	Joint & 100% Survivor
<b>Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The COLA rate is determined around mid-January each year.</li> <li>The COLA rate is based on 80% of the increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U).</li> <li>As long as you receive a MPERS benefit payment, you are eligible to receive an annual COLA.</li> </ul>	
2021 COLA Rate 0.987% 2021 COLA Amount \$42.08	
<b>Federal and Missouri State Tax Withholding</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Your benefit payment from MPERS is taxable income. The Federal tax tables can change every January.</li> <li>Missouri is the only state tax MPERS will withhold.</li> <li>You may change your tax withholding election(s) at any time.</li> <li>If you have tax questions, please contact a tax professional who can review your entire financial situation. <b>MPERS' staff cannot provide tax advice.</b></li> </ul>	
<b>Federal Tax Withholding Election</b> Married, 0 allowance(s), plus \$105.00 extra <b>Missouri State Tax Withholding Election</b> \$10.00 per month	
<b>Payment Method</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The benefit you receive from MPERS is paid on the last working day of each month, in the method listed below.</li> </ul>	
Payment Method Elected	Electronic

# MPERS' Matters

## Benefits

In the March edition of *The Pensioner: In the Moment*, the oversight formula was introduced:

$$C + I = B + E$$

In the oversight formula, contributions plus investments equals benefits plus expenses. Over the upcoming months, we will be looking at the benefit portion of the formula.

While MPERS pays monthly, lifetime retirement benefits to retirees and survivors, it also pays disability and death benefits.

MPERS administers three plans: the Closed Plan, the Year 2000 Plan, and the 2011 Tier.

The Closed Plan and the Year 2000 Plan are non-contributory, which means that the employee doesn't financially contribute to the MPERS retirement benefit. Once eligible for retirement, vested members will receive a benefit for their lifetime. During the retirement process, members can choose among various payment options to provide survivor benefits to a spouse or another individual. In addition, eligible members may elect BackDROP, which will provide a lump sum in addition to a reduced monthly payment. Regardless of the payment option selected, vested members will receive a benefit for their lifetime.

The 2011 Tier is very similar to the Closed and Year 2000 plan except that it is a contributory plan. Members of this tier are required to contribute 4% of their salary to the MPERS trust fund to help fund their future retirement benefit. Like the other plans, upon retirement, a vested member may elect from a number of payment options that will provide survivor benefits to a spouse or another individual. There is no option for a lump sum payment for this tier. Individuals who do not vest or who terminate employment prior to reaching retirement eligibility may request a refund of their contributions.

**C = Contributions**  
**I = Investments**  
**B = Benefits**  
**E = Expenses**

In the event a member is unable to work and is approved for work-related or long-term disability, MPERS (or the designated disability insurer) will pay disability benefits until the individual is eligible to retire, then in most cases, the member will choose to "retire" and then receive retiree benefit payments.

Another benefit MPERS pays is the \$5,000 death benefit. This benefit is paid to a designated beneficiary after the member has passed away. This benefit is only available to those who have retired directly from active service or became normal or work-related disability recipients after 9/28/1995. This benefit does not carry over to the survivor.

Below is a snapshot of some of the benefits paid in the 2021 fiscal year.

**Retiree and survivor benefits paid**  
**\$ 250,420,018**

**BackDROP payments**  
**\$13,585,357**

**Death benefits**  
**\$1,255,000**

Next month we will explore the cost of the benefits component of the oversight formula.

# COMING SOON

## **myMPERS Secure Member Access Multi-Factor Authentication**

The safety and security of member and stakeholder personal information is something we take seriously at MPERS. In the coming months we will be implementing an additional security measure called multi-factor authentication (MFA) to the myMPERS login process.

Upon logging in to your *myMPERS* account, you will be prompted to choose your preference(s) for MFA.

Please remember, it has not taken affect just yet, so proceed as normal. Once it has been fully implemented, we will be available to assist with the transition.



## **Upcoming Events**

- 11 - Veterans Day-office closed
- 18 - Board meeting
- 26 - Thanksgiving-office closed
- 30 - Payday for benefit recipients



We value your feedback!

What would you like to see in ***The Pensioner: In the Moment?***

Send comments and suggestions to [Julie.West@mpers.org](mailto:Julie.West@mpers.org).